

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652

TAGS: XR, PFOR

SUBJECT: CUBA - OAS

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE ON CUBA TOOK PLACE AT NOON BRIEFING
SEPT. 6:

Q: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THE OAS
MEETING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OAS
WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND IN QUITO, ECUADOR, SPECIFICALLY
TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF CUBA?

A: WELL, I HAVE SEEN THESE SAME PRESS REPORTS, THAT THE OAS
PERMANENT COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE CUBA QUESTION ON
SEPTEMBER 19 AND THAT A MEETING OF THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS
WILL BE CONVENED TO TAKE UP THE MATTER ON NOVEMBER 11. AS
FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, NO PROPOSAL AS YET HAS BEEN MADE TO
THE OAS. BUT WE DO UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES ARE
PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOR EARLY SUBMISSION TO THE ORGANIZA-
TION OF AMERICAN STATES.

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Q: BY WAY OF CORRECTION, THIS WAS DONE THIS MORNING, SHORTLY BEFORE 11 O'CLOCK.

A: WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED -- AND I WAS JUST GOING TO GO ON HERE, IF I COULD, -- (FOR POSTS INFORMATION: DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED THE PROPOSAL JUST BEFORE PRESS BRIEFING BEGAN, AND HAD NOT YET APPRISED SPOKESMAN).

Q: SEVERAL COUNTRIES ARE PREPARING WHAT?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES ARE PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOR EARLY SUBMISSION TO THE ORGANIZATION. DAVID BINDER SAYS THAT THIS HAS JUST BEEN DONE. I WAS UNAWARE OF IT BEFORE I CAME DOWN HERE.

Q: THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSAL IS WHAT --

A: WHEN WE GET A PROPOSAL, WHEN IT IS TABLED, WE WILL STUDY IT, AND WE WILL CONSULT WITH OUR OAS CO-MEMBERS, AND I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE PROPOSAL -- WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT YET.

LET ME GO ON WITH ONE THING TO FINISH THE QUESTION OF THE NOVEMBER 11 MEETING.

Q: IS THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS?

A: THERE IS NO PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A MEETING THAT WE KNOW OF. AND THEREFORE, UNTIL THERE IS SUCH A PROPOSAL, I DON'T WANT TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO IT -- I CAN'T ADDRESS MYSELF TO IT.

Q: WHAT IS THE AMERICAN POSITION ON A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING? ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS TO A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING TO TAKE UP THE SUBJECT, APART FROM PROPOSALS?

A: WELL, THERE IS A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED IN BUENOS AIRES NEXT MARCH, AS WE ALL KNOW. THE SECRETARY HAS INDICATED HE IS PREPARED TO GO TO THAT. BUT WITH REGARD TO THIS REPORT OF A POSSIBLE MEETING IN NOVEMBER, THERE IS NO SUCH PROPOSAL, AND SO I CANNOT ADDRESS MYSELF

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TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT UNTIL THERE IS A PROPOSAL. I JUST DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON IT.

Q: COULD YOU SPECULATE FROM A PURELY TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW ON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SECRETARY TO ATTEND A MEETING IN EARLY NOVEMBER?

A: I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT, FRANKLY. I

DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIS DEFINITE PLANS ARE YET FOR THAT PARTICULAR PERIOD.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU, AS A POLICY QUESTION -- WHAT IS THE CURRENT AMERICAN POLICY IN TERMS OF LIFTING SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA?

A: ON THAT, I WILL JUST SAY THIS. I JUST REFER YOU TO WHAT PRESIDENT FORD SAID THE OTHER DAY, AND I HAVE NO OTHER COMMENT TO ADD.

Q: ONE OF THE BASES FOR THE ACTIONS AGAINST CUBA WAS THEIR ALLEGED EXPORTING OF SUBVERSION THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE. IS THERE ANY MONITORING SYSTEM IN EFFECT NOW, AND DO YOU HAVE ANY ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER CUBA IS ENGAGING IN THIS PRACTICE AT THE PRESENT TIME? DO YOU GET REPORTS FROM EMBASSIES THAT THEY ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF EXPORTING SUBVERSION, WHATEVER THAT MEANS?

A: I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE SUBJECT AT ALL.

Q: DID AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD OF THE OAS GO TO SEVERAL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES LAST MONTH IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF THE ANTI-EMBARGO INITIATIVES?

A: NO, HE DID NOT. I HAD SOME GUIDANCE ON THIS PREPARED AT THE TIME OF HIS TRIP, AND HE WENT TO VARIOUS CAPITALS -- I CAN'T EVEN RECALL WHICH NOW -- AS PART OF A BRIEFING OF HIMSELF AS HE GOT INTO HIS JOB. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE DETAILS ON IT.

Q: UNRELATED TO THE EMBARGO QUESTION.

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A: UNRELATED.

Q: MAY I CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

Q: ONE QUESTION, PLEASE. IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE OAS CHARTER THAT YOU KNOW, ANY ARTICLE OF THE OAS CHARTER, WHICH WOULD BYPASS THE TWO - THIRDS RULE --

Q: BYPASS WHAT?

A: THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY RULE.

A: I AM JUST NOT INFORMED. YOU WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THE CHARTER. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: IF I COULD ASK ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT CUBA? IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES WANTS TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA, WILL THE UNITED STATES GO ALONG WITH IT?

A: ON THIS SUBJECT, WE HAVE GOT -- I WANT TO STAY WITH WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID.

Q: HE SAID WE WILL ACT IN CONCERT WITH OUR OAS FRIENDS.

A: THAT'S RIGHT. AND THAT IS WHAT WE WILL DO. AND LET US WAIT AND SEE IF THERE IS A PROPOSAL, WHAT THE PROPOSAL IS. IT WILL BE FULLY AND VERY CAREFULLY STUDIED BY THE SECRETARY. AND AS FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA MENTIONED WHEN HE WAS HERE, THE SECRETARY TOLD HIM THAT THIS WAS WHAT HE WOULD DO, AND THEN HE WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH THE PRESIDENT.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY HEAD-COUNTING ON THIS YET? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHICH WAY THE TREND IS GOING?

A: I AM UNAWARE OF ANY HEAD-COUNTING.

Q: BUT YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAVE A COUNT OF TWO-THIRDS OR A SIMPLE MAJORITY.

A: NO, I DON'T.

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Q: THERE IS NO LEGAL STUDY GOING ON TO SEE WHETHER IT CALLS FOR TWO THIRDS OR A SIMPLE MAJORITY TO REMOVE THE ATTEMPTED ISOLATION OF CUBA.

A: I AM UNINFORMED ON THAT DETAIL.

Q: ONE OTHER QUESTION THAT IS RATHER IMPORTANT.

A: WE WILL SEE WHAT THE CHARTER SAYS, BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOU CAN'T LOOK IT UP IN THE CHARTER.

Q: I AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE CAN LOOK IT UP IN THE CHARTER, BUT IS THERE ANY STUDY BEING MADE TO FIND OUT IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN THE RULES?

A: I WILL LOOK INTO IT. YOU TAKE YOUR PART OF THE QUESTION AND I WILL TAKE MY PART. (THERE IS NO LEGAL STUDY BY THE DEPARTMENT.)

Q: ON THAT HEAD-COUNTING THAT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY HEAD-COUNTING --

A: I AM UNAWARE OF THAT.

Q: BUT SURELY WITHIN THE BUILDING THERE MUST BE SOME HEAD-COUNTING, ISN'T THERE?

A: I IMAGINE THAT PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERING THE SUBJECT, YES.

Q: AND IN THAT SPIRIT, MAYBE YOU CAN FIND OUT, OR GIVE US SOME JUDGMENT THE NEXT TIME WE MEET AS TO WHAT THAT HEAD-COUNTING MIGHT BE, BECAUSE IT WOULD REALLY BE INCONCEIVABLE THAT ON A MAJOR ISSUE, NO ONE IN THIS BUILDING IS THINKING ABOUT THAT.

A: I WOULD DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT I COULD GIVE YOU GUIDANCE -- IF THERE IS SUCH A HEAD-COUNT -- ON HOW THE HEAD-COUNT WOULD GO. KISSINGER

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